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Annual Report

UPON THE

Public Health & Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT

OF

LEIGHTON BUZZARD

FOR THE YEAR

1942

BY

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H. Jackson & Co., Printers, Leighton Buzzard.

TO THE

LEIGHTON BUZZARD

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1942.

Copies of this Report, as you are aware, must be sent to the Ministry of Health.

General Statistics.

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births	Legitimate	116	72	44
	Illegitimate	1	0	1

		Total	M.	F.	
Still Births	Legitimate	0	0	0	Rate per 1,000 total births 8.54
	Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Deaths	... ...	94	46	48	

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

No. of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth Nil

Death of Infants under one year old:
Legitimate, 8; Illegitimate, 0; Total, 8.

Rate per 1000 births, 68.37.

Deaths from	Measles (all ages)		Nil
,,	,,	Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,,	,,	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil
,,	,,	Scarlet Fever (all ages)	Nil
,,	,,	Diphtheria (all ages)	Nil
,,	,,	Cancer (all ages)	14

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Medical.

A part-time Medical Officer is employed, together with a Sanitary Inspector, and Veterinary Meat Inspector.

Hospitals.

All cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria sent away for isolation were treated at the Dunstable and District Isolation Hospital, the cases being removed by the Hospital's own ambulance in accordance with the County Scheme.

86 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year, 40 of the cases being sent to Dunstable in accordance with the above scheme, and one case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever was sent to Luton Isolation Hospital. The remaining cases were isolated and nursed at home.

Patients with Tuberculosis can attend at the Dispensary, which is conveniently held at Luton, and they can be admitted to the Mogerhanger Sanatorium.

Venereal cases can be treated at the Bute Hospital, Luton, and the County Hospital, Bedford.

By arrangement of the County Council, cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum can be sent to St. Margaret's Hospital, London, S.W.1, for treatment.

There is a St. John motor ambulance available, at a local garage, which is a great convenience and comfort in the removal of special or accident cases to the hospitals.

There are two permanently resident midwives in the town. A Health Visitor also visits the homes and gives instruction and advice.

Specimens and swabs are sent to the Clinical Research Association and Luton Borough Laboratory for microscopic and bacteriological examination.

The Council grants supplies of Antitoxin and Scarlet Fever Serum.

An Infant Welfare Centre is conducted in the town, a lady Health Visitor being present each week. She is assisted by the local nurse and several ladies in the town. A medical officer also attends. It still remains a very popular centre.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse is still efficiently carried out, but owing to there being a well organised kitchen waste collection scheme in operation and for certain other reasons, the weekly collection of house refuse has been superseded by a fortnightly collection.

The house refuse is still disposed of at the Council's controlled tip in Vandyke Road, which continues to give satisfaction.

Street gullies are periodically cleansed and flushed out with clean water.

Disinfection.

A stock of disinfectants is kept at the Council's Store Yard, West Street, and the public can have a full supply on application, of which they take advantage.

Premises are always disinfected after cases of infectious disease, and after deaths from tuberculosis.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is now only one common lodging house in the district, which is kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Schools.

The Elementary Schools of the town are as follows:—

Beaudesert: Senior Boys and Mixed Infants.
Bassett Road: Senior Girls.
Pulford: Junior Boys.
St. Andrew's: Junior Girls.

The sanitary accommodation is sufficient and in good order.

There is a Secondary School in the town for boys and girls, which is well provided with all sanitary arrangements.

Camping Sites.

There was only one licence issued under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which was for the use of one caravan.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one swimming bath in the town situated in the grounds of the Cedars School for the use of the pupils and members of the staff. The bath is of modern construction and is provided with a proper purification plant.

There is a large natural swimming pool on the outskirts of the town which is open to the public but is privately owned. The surface of the pool covers an area of approximately 2½ acres and the water always appears to be in good condition. This pool is the headquarters of the Leighton Buzzard Swimming Club.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Nine Council houses and three privately owned houses found to be infested with bugs were successfully fumigated with "Cimex."

Houses are periodically visited by the Sanitary Inspector and tenants are encouraged to report any signs of infestation or re-infestation of their houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year :—

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	65
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	126
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	7
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	16
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	7

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	7

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A. Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	4

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

Total number of new houses erected in 1942 classified as follows:

By the Local Authority	Nil
By private enterprise	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

1. General :—

Number of Inspections	315
Complaints received	32
Nuisances detected without complaint ...	30
Notices served, informal	55
Notices served, statutory	1
Nuisances abated:	
(a) By persons responsible	50
(b) By Council	1

2. House Nuisances :—

Roofs repaired	12
Guttering and rainwater pipes cleaned out or repaired	2
Dirty houses cleansed and distempered...	Nil
Walls and ceilings repaired	1
Floors repaired	Nil
Ventilation improved	Nil
New sinks provided	1
External wall repaired	Nil
Pavements repaired	2
Other defects remedied	24

3. Drains, Water Closets, Etc. :—

New drains laid	1
Drains cleared or repaired	13
Water closets repaired	17
Sanitary ashbins provided	5
Additional Water Closets provided ...	Nil
Privy Ashpits converted into Pail Closets	Nil
Pail Closets repaired	Nil

4. Knackers' Yards :—

Number on Register	1
Number of inspections	5
Number of defects found	6
Number remedied	6

5. Bakehouses.

Number on Register	8
Number of inspections	16
Number of defects found...	Nil
Number remedied	Nil

6. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops :—

Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk	23
Number of Cowkeepers	5
Number of inspections	58
Number of defects found	2
Number remedied	2

7. Various :—

Removal of animals improperly kept ...	Nil
Visits to infected houses	41
Houses disinfected	41
Verminous houses fumigated	12
Other items: One Common Lodging House inspections	12

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply is obtained from the Urban District and the Luton and Wing Rural Districts. Pasteurised milk is also delivered into the District in bulk and in bottles. Inspections of the farms and dairies have been made.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ...	1271	753	5775	118
All diseases except Tuberculosis.				
Whole Carcases condemned	1	Nil	5	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	74	3	294	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.90%	0.39%	5.17%	1.69%
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole Carcases condemned	17	4	3	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	119	1	11	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.70%	0.66%	0.24%	3.38%

Inspections were made at various shops and premises and the following articles of food were examined and condemned:

760 lbs. Canned Meats.
242 tins of Milk.
77 ,, Fruit.
95 ,, Vegetables.
113 ,, Fish.
10 ,, Soup.
283 lbs. Bacon.
10 whole Cod.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Specimens for the Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of milk and food are sent to the Clinical Research Association.

MEASURES RELATING TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Small Pox: No cases notified.

Scarlet Fever.

Thirty-two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. All made good recoveries.

Diphtheria.

Eight cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. All made good recoveries.

Enteric Fever: No cases notified.

Puerperal Fever.

One case of Puerperal Fever notified made a good recovery.

Pneumonia (all forms).

Twelve cases of Pneumonia (all forms) were notified during the year. Seven of the cases proved fatal.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case was notified and made a complete recovery.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

One case was notified and made a good recovery.

Erysipelas.

One case was notified which was isolated and nursed at home and made a good recovery.

Measles and Chicken Pox.

14 cases of Measles and 10 of Chicken Pox were notified and nursed at home. All made good recoveries.

Whooping Cough.

6 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis.

Four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from this disease.

There were three cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified and three deaths occurred from this disease.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children immunised during 1942.

Under 5 years:	Over 5 and under 15:
103.	71.

Total: 174.

Your obedient Servant,

JONATHAN GROGONO,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1942.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified.													Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & Upwards		
Small Pox	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	32	...	1	...	...	6	14	4	1	3	2	1	...	32	...
Diphtheria	8	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	3	2	...	...	...	8	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	2	3	1	...	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	14	2	4	4	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	10	1	1	...	3	...	1	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	6	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	86	5	6	6	4	7	22	7	6	14	4	4	1	41	7

TABLE III.

Cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1942.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
35	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	1	...	...	..	...	...	1	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	3	1	1	2	...	1	2	1

TABLE IV.

Causes of Death during the year 1942.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring with in or beyond the District.								
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
All causes	94	8	...	2	...	...	4	25	55
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	... 1	...	...	...	..	...	... 1	...	...
Other tuberculous diseases ...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
General Paralysis of the Insane	... ...	... ...	.. ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... 3	... ...
Cancer (malignant disease) ...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Diabetes	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Heart Disease	33	...	...	...	...	...	3	9	21
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Circulatory diseases ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Other Respiratory diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...
Peptic Ulcer	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Diarrhœa, etc. (over 2 years)	... ...	... ...	... ..	... ...	... ...	... ..	... ...	... ...	... ...
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of liver, etc....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	... 2	... ...	... ...	... 1	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... 1
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other puerperal causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	 7	 7	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... .	... ...	... ...
Senility	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Suicide	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other violence	1	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Other defined Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Causes ill-defined or unknown	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...	... ...

Table V.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1942.
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { Certified	6	...	2	8	...	...	...	...	8
All Causes { Uncertified	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Diphtheria : Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	3	...	2	5	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility, and	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marasmus	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Accidental & Other Causes	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	6	...	2	8	...	...	...	...	8

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated.					
		At Home	In hospital				
Under one year.	1	1	...	1	...	...	...